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grains of an undetermined mineral, probably orthorhombic pyroxene. The olivine had become closely compacted and the grains jagged in outline, with numerous inclusions of dark grains, probably iron oxide. Analyses of the fresh and altered rock showed that the recrystallization involved oxidation and dehydration.

E. STEIDTMANN

Geology of the Thousand Islands Region. By H. P. CUSHING, H. L. FAIRCHILD, R. RUEDEMANN, and C. H. SMYTH, JR. New York State Museum Bulletin 145. Albany, 1910. Pp. 194; Figs. 14; Pls. 63; Maps 5.

The Thousand Islands region embraces the Alexandria Bay, Cape Vincent, Clayton, Grindstone, and Theresa quadrangles of northern New York. It is a district of pre-Cambrian, Cambrian, and Lower Silurian rocks and Pleistocene deposits, which are described and faunas and structures of which are discussed.

From facts gathered outside of this district the formerly called "passage beds" lying between the Potsdam and the overlying Beekmantown have been separated into two formations, the Theresa of the Upper Cambrian and the Tribes Hill of Beekmantown age. Although the unconformity that causes the separation has not as yet been detected in this region, the paleontological evidence indicates that the separation should be made. Of special interest is the new Pamelia formation, here first differentiated, which represents an arm of the Upper Stones River sea when that sea had encroached farthest to the northeast. No deposits of the Stones River sea have previously been known to occur in New York. The Pamelia basin was entirely separated from that of the Chazy, but is considered to be contemporaneous with the interval between the Middle and Upper Chazy. The term "Black River" as applied to Lower Silurian formations, has been redefined to include, besides the "Seven foot tier" of Hall, now renamed the Watertown limestone, the Lowville formation of which the upper part (the "cherty beds") is called the Leray limestone member.

The Pleistocene deposits consist of three kinds; those formed by glaciers, those formed in the glacial Lake Iroquois, and the deposits in Gilbert Gulf, an arm of the Atlantic after Lake Iroquois had been drained to sea-level.

The pre-glacial course of Black River has a new interpretation which states it to have been the headwaters of the St. Lawrence drainage instead of the Ontario valley.

The petrography of the pre-Cambrian rocks is discussed, and numerous analyses of granites, syenites, gneisses, and amphibolites are given.

A. E. F.

An Excursion to the Yosemite (California), or Studies in the Formation of Alpine Cirques, "Steps," and Valley "Treads." By E. C. ANDREWS. Jour. and Proc. of the Royal Society of N. S. Wales, XLIV, 262–315; Figs. 17.

Considerable space is given to *The Psychological Factor in the History of the Glacial Controversy* in which is emphasized the necessity of interpreting glacial features by the ice floods that formed them, and not by the present dwarfed representatives of those floods. The dynamics of ice stream erosion is discussed with special emphasis on the effects of ice falls and their recession forming "steps" and "treads," and on the formation of cirques and *roches moutonnées.*

Previous to glacial times, the Merced and Tenaya rivers had a fairly even descent through the Yosemite region, with a notable constriction in the valley between El Capitan and the Cathedral rocks. Later, with the ice moving through this constriction, the velocity at this point was increased, and, likewise, the erosive power, which developed a "step" with "basined tread." The "step" and "tread," once formed, were rapidly enlarged by recession through the processes of sapping and quarrying, and in their recession left hanging valleys, now marked by water falls.

A. E. F.

Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Annual Report of the Director. By L. A. BAUER. Year Book No. 9, pp. 195–204; Pl. 1.

In a general summary is given the work done with the "Carnegie" in correcting magnetic charts, and an outline of her present circumnavigation cruise. The field work in the various countries, the ocean work of the "Carnegie," the office work, and the shopwork accomplished during the year are stated briefly. The map (Pl. 5) accompanying the report shows the status of the magnetic work accomplished both on land and sea up to October 31, 1910, and the uncompleted portion of the present cruise of the "Carnegie."

A. E. F.